

Sidney Township
Minutes
August 3, 2020

Supervisor Peterman called the Sidney Township Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDENCE: Peterman, Stover, Wills, Welder, Leyrer excused himself and left the meeting

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Welder and seconded by Stover to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk

Wills received a notice from Petersen Oil & Gas for purchase of fuel options for the coming year.

A motion was made by Welder and seconded by Stover to follow standard procedure and go with the pre-buy option at \$1.399 per gallon. Motion carried.

Supervisor

Peterman reported that the sewer advisory committee met last week. Todd Sattler, the new Drain Commissioner, wanted to meet the committee members and get their input on how they would like to proceed. No budget has been set for next year, but Todd will be meeting with Shawn Wheat soon to work on it. Our board cannot make a decision on whether or not to raise O&M rates until the budget is set.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Officer Edwards presented the Sheriff's report for the past month. There was a total of 151 hours and 3094 miles reported.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Albert Jongewaa with Apex Energy, Dan Paris, and Kevin Beason, Pine River Township, Gratiot County were here to discuss wind farms. Apex Energy is looking at leasing lands in about 11 townships in Montcalm County for wind farms. The township will need to prepare an ordinance concerning wind farms.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover reported that we received revenue sharing from the state. We will have to wait and see if we get it next time. The pandemic has caused a drop in state revenue. Current checkbook balance is \$165,944.29

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Welder to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills informed the board that there was a change in election inspectors. Yvonne Niswonger will be working for Evon Christensen, who was unable to attend the inspector training.

Wills reported that total expenses for this month was \$62,426.47. That includes payment of three of the road contracts for road repair and wages for election inspectors.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to approve the Clerk's report. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

At the last meeting the planning commission informed the board that Marv Tugan was resigning from the commission. It was their recommendation to appoint Jeff Ludholtz to the planning commission and approve Kim Smith as co-chair.

A motion was made by Welder and seconded by Stover to appoint appoint Jeff Ludholtz to the planning commission and approve Kim Smith as co-chair. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

County Commissioner, Adam Petersen, gave an overview of county business. He explained that funds received from the sheriff millage would not be used by the prosecuting attorney's office. The board is working on budget hearings. It's not known yet if there will be a cut in revenue sharing so more cuts to the budget may be necessary. Question was asked if money collected from the millage is in a separate fund and not in the general fund. Adam assured her those funds are deposited into the 211 fund account.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale gave an update on current status of complaints. There are several he needs to follow up on as nothing is being done to cleanup.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Lawyer

The board had previously discussed retaining a new attorney. They agreed to start using services provided by Attorney Jourdan Rassmussen from Edmore.

Mowing

The board discussed properties that are in violation of the ordinance regarding unkempt lawns. Letters sent informing the property owner of the violation don't always work.

A motion was made by Welder and seconded by Stover to send no more than three letters to the property owner in noncompliance with the ordinance. If there is no response to the letters, the township will hire someone to mow the lawn and the cost will be billed to the property owner or added to his/her tax bill as a special assessment. Motion carried.

Recreation Plan

The board agreed to review the recreation master plan prepared by Attorney Hilding and take action to approve it at the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Dave Buckner asked how we would collect the fees charged for lawn mowing if the property is exempt. Special assessments are not exempted.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Motion carried.

Carrie Wills

Clerk